Edward III: The Perfect King





Edward III: The Perfect King by Ian Mortimer

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Edward III (1312-1377) was one of the most successful and important monarchs in English history. He is best known for his military victories in the Hundred Years' War, including the Battle of Crécy and the Battle of Poitiers. But Edward was also a skilled politician and reformer, who introduced a number of important changes to English government and society.

Edward III was born in Windsor Castle on 13 November 1312. He was the eldest son of Edward II and Isabella of France. Edward II was a weak and ineffective king, and Isabella was a ruthless and ambitious woman. In 1327, Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer, deposed Edward II and installed Edward III on the throne.

Edward III was just 14 years old when he became king. He was initially ruled by Mortimer, but in 1330 he took control of the government himself. Edward III was a charismatic and popular king, and he quickly established himself as a strong and capable leader.

In 1337, Edward III launched the Hundred Years' War against France. The war was a long and bloody conflict, but Edward III won a number of important victories, including the Battle of Crécy in 1346 and the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. Edward III also introduced a number of important reforms

to the English army, including the use of longbows and the development of new siege techniques.

In addition to his military successes, Edward III was also a skilled politician and reformer. He introduced a number of important changes to the English government, including the establishment of Parliament as a permanent body. Edward III also reformed the English legal system and introduced a number of new laws to protect the rights of ordinary people.

Edward III was a complex and fascinating figure. He was a brilliant military commander, a skilled politician, and a devoted patron of the arts. He was also a ruthless and ambitious man, who was willing to use any means necessary to achieve his goals.

Edward III died at Sheen Palace on 21 June 1377. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where his tomb can still be seen today. Edward III was succeeded by his grandson, Richard II.

Edward III: The Perfect King is a fascinating and engaging biography of one of England's most important and successful monarchs. Acclaimed historian Dr. John Ashdown-Hill delves into the life and reign of Edward III, exploring his military triumphs, his political reforms, and his personal life. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in English history or the Middle Ages.



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